

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS  
AND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE  
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

The Alaska Board of Fisheries proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, which implement, interpret, or make specific the provisions of Title 16, Alaska Statutes. Regulations to be the subject of board action concern commercial fishing, including the following:

**A. IN THE BERING SEA-ALEUTIAN ISLANDS (AREA O), COOK INLET (AREA H), AND SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA (AREA M) GROUND FISH FISHERIES:**

In the commercial fishery: fishing seasons, periods, opening and closing times; harvest limits or quotas; gear and vessel restrictions and requirements; methods and means; districts, subdistricts, sections, subsections, areas, and other management boundaries; operating restrictions, requirements and definitions; locations open and closed to fishing; require, restrict or prohibit the retention, sale, or purchase of fish; registration requirements for catchers, processors, buyers, and transporters; onboard observer requirements; allocation among beneficial uses.

You may comment on the regulation changes, including the potential costs to the private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526, no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2005 to insure inclusion in the board workbooks. Comments may be submitted any time before the proposal is voted on by the board in deliberations at the scheduled meeting, but, as a practical matter comments submitted after the board begins deliberations on relevant proposals are likely to receive less consideration than comments submitted earlier. Comments also may be faxed to (907) 465-6094. Oral comments may also be presented as explained below.

The board will hold a public meeting, which will be separated into two sections:

1) A nonregulatory work session will be held at the Alyeska Prince Hotel, 1000 Arlberg Ave., Girdwood, Alaska beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 13, 2005. Among the items to be considered at the work session are:

Election of officers; board committee and task force reports (including Joint NPFMC/BOF, PWS Allocation Committee, Salmon Restructuring Panel, other); 2005/2006 future board meeting schedule and call for proposals; agenda change requests (ACRs); petitions; scheduling requests; meeting organization and establishment of committees for 2005/2006 cycle; delegation of authority to commissioner to reformat regulations; and other informational report and/or administrative issues that may come before the board.

No oral comment will be taken at this work session meeting; however, written comment will be taken as described above. An agenda will be posted during the meeting and will be posted on the internet at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php>.

2) The second section of the meeting will be to consider regulatory actions in the groundfish fisheries listed in (A) above, and will be held at the Alyeska Prince Hotel, 1000 Arlberg Ave., Girdwood, Alaska beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2005. The public hearing portion of this meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone who has signed up and is present has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public

hearings may be held throughout this meeting immediately prior to the consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations for the various areas. An agenda will be posted daily during this meeting. The board will take oral testimony only from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The length of oral statements may be limited to five minutes or less. Written comment will be taken as described above.

In addition to the public meetings described above, two committees of the board will meet (no regulatory action will be taken) as follows:

3) The Prince William Sound Allocation Committee will meet beginning at 8:30 am on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at the Captain Cook Hotel, Fourth and K Streets, Anchorage, Alaska to discuss proposals received by the board concerning Prince William Sound salmon.

4) The Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel will meet beginning at 9 am on Monday, October 17, 2005 at the Captain Cook Hotel, Aft Deck, Fourth and K Streets, Anchorage, Alaska to discuss topics associated with the board's charge by the legislature to identify and consider policy changes to help the state's commercial salmon industry.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in these processes, please contact Lori VanSteenwyk at (907) 465-4110 (to correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-3648) no later than September 30, 2005 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526 or go to the website at: [www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php](http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php).

Anyone interested in or affected by the commercial fishing regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice, the Board of Fisheries may consider any or all of the subject areas covered by this notice. Pursuant to AS 44.62.200(b), the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the fishing regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258.

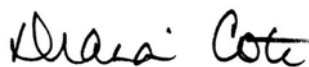
On its own motion, after public hearing, the board may adopt, amend, reject, supplement, or take no action on these subjects without further notice. In addition, the board may adopt other regulations necessary to implement, administer, or enforce the regulations adopted. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations; the board is not limited by the specific language or confines of the actual proposals that have been submitted. You should comment during the time allowed if your interests could be affected.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05 – AS 16.20

Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific: AS 16.05 – AS 16.20

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

Date: September 12, 2005



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Diana Cote, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Fisheries